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Jury Probes Tampering With Alleged Weapon In RFK Death

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The county grand jury stirred memories of the three-year-old assassination of Robert F. Kennedy by opening an investigation Monday into whether the alleged murder weapon and fatal bullets have been tampered with.

The closed-door probe came after several persons raised questions about the case, including a Canadian journalist who asserted that Kennedy was killed by a second gunman rather than convicted assassin Sirhan B. Sirhan, now on San Quentin's Death Row.

Grand jurors are expected to confine themselves to the question of tampering with evidence, which was ordered sealed by the judge in Sirhan's trial. The probe is expected to

last about three days.

The first witnesses were two judges in the case and a prosecutor.

Dist. Atty. Joseph Busch Jr. had declared last month that his office was "terribly concerned" over "evidence that exhibits have been directly handled by numerous persons" in violation of the court order. He requested the grand jury investigation.

The renewed interest in the case began on May 28, when attorney Barbara Warner Blehr asserted that DeWayne A. Wolfer of the Los Angeles Police Department had lied when he testified at Sirhan's trial that he had test fired the gun that killed Kennedy. He actually had fired a similar weapon, she said. She said the fatal shot

could have been fired by a second gunman.